

February 13, 2008

The Honorable Ted Stevens
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
ATTN: George Lowe

RE: Children's Cancer Research

Dear Senator Stevens:

As a mother, grandmother, and concerned citizen of Alaska, I am writing to ask your much needed help and support in the fight against children's cancer in Alaska and across the United States. As ranking member of the Defense Subcommittee I know you have in the past and are still in a position to extend a helping hand in securing funding through Defense Appropriations for medical research and other efforts that benefit Alaskans and all of our nation's citizens. This year, I am asking you to submit and support a request for \$20 million in the Defense Appropriation for research in the fight to save our babies' lives. It is imperative that we plant our feet firmly and insist that this become a priority.

Children's cancer research is a cause which is near and dear to my heart and those of the rest of my family, as well.

In July, 1996, my then 5-month old granddaughter, Taylor Quiring, was diagnosed with Stage 4 neuroblastoma. Her prognosis was grim. Through her sheer will to survive and thrive, she endured the pain and agony of multiple surgeries, and the horrors of having chemicals dumped into her tiny little body day after day -- all of which we knew were possibly damaging her in other ways: After chemotherapy, will she be able to have children? Will her bladder be permanently damaged? Will her hearing be impaired? All of these things were possible side effects. As sinister and diabolical as this method of treatment is, it was still the only hope for Taylor. Taylor's care was conducted by her oncologist in association with the Children's Oncology Group. Her loving parents administered much of her daily chemo treatment, a frightening task for them, indeed.

Neuroblastoma is a form of cancer occurring in infants and young children. It is the most common cancer in infants and fourth most common cancer in children. There are approximately 650 new cases diagnosed annually in the United States. The causes of neuroblastoma are not entirely known. At this time, there is no proven way to prevent the disease. **We need to fix this.**

I am thrilled beyond words to say Taylor, now 12, is well. She and I will be visiting Washington, D.C. beginning March 31, through April 4, 2008. We will be contacting your office with the hope of scheduling an appointment to visit you during our D.C. trip to discuss the urgent need for research to eradicate the devastating cancers suffered by children and the importance of your continued support. Taylor and her friends (one of whom she watched die at the age of 13, choosing to forego chemotherapy for her cancer) NEED YOUR HELP!

Personally, I have lived in Alaska since 1983. Recently, I was asked to serve as the Alaska representative for CureSearch, which is a national childhood cancer foundation that supports the work of the Children's Oncology Group. The Children's Oncology Group is the only international cooperative researching pediatric cancer. This is the group which handled Taylor's treatment.

Thank you for your time in reading this and thank you in advance for your continuing support in procuring the funds for this research and hopefully for meeting with me and Taylor in April.

Most sincerely,

Submission Date: _____

Priority: _____ of _____



Ted Stevens

United States Senator for Alaska

Please Note:

- Fill out one request form for each request
- This form (and any attachments) can be returned via:

Fax - (202) 224-2354

Mail - The Honorable Ted Stevens
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

- Requests are due by February 15, 2008.

FISCAL YEAR 2009 PROJECT REQUEST FORM

Project Name: CHILDREN'S ONCOLOGY GROUP

Project Location: BETHESDA, MD

Project Description (please attach additional pages as required):

Funding would be provided to enhance important ongoing clinical trials, support creation of significant, new clinical trials and prevent discontinuation of critical childhood cancer trials benefiting children of military families, civilian DOD employees, and other children afflicted with childhood cancer. Funding would also support existing DOD translational research in high risk childhood cancer targeting new agents against highly resistant, poor prognosis diseases.

Related Appropriations Bill: Defense

Amount of federal funding requested for FY09: \$20 million

Total funding to complete this project: Ongoing

Number of years to fund this project: Ongoing

Matching funds from the State of Alaska: n/a

Matching funds from local and private entities:

\$11.6 million- FY2008

If this project was funded in prior appropriations bills (within the last five years), list each bill and the amount funded:

\$750,000 FY2004 Energy and Water
\$ 2.25 million FY2005 (\$750,000 Energy and Water, \$1.5 million LHHS)
\$2.375 million FY2006 Defense
\$3 million FY2007 Defense
\$1.6 million FY2008 Defense

Amount included in the President's FY09 Budget: 0

Amount included in the State of Alaska FY09 Budget: 0

☐ Check this box if state funding was sought but not provided.

List legislation that authorizes this project:

Check all that apply:

- ☐ A change in the current law is necessary in order to proceed with the project. (If so, attach language and a list of laws that need to be amended)
- ☐ Bill or report language is needed. (If so, attach requested language)